Ontario

Ontario Women's Directorate

NEWSRELEASE

February 25 , 2005

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT HELPING WOMEN GET BETTER JOBS
Promoting Women's Economic Independence

QUEEN'S PARK – The Ontario government today announced funding that will enable Aboriginal women to receive pre-apprenticeship training in a new program called Native Residential Construction at Northern College in Moosonee.

"Our government is committed to helping women learn the skills they need to secure good jobs and become economically independent," said Sandra Pupatello, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues. "Through this unique course at Northern College, we are supporting specialized training for Aboriginal women who face significant challenges in finding well-paying jobs in their communities."

The program is offered in partnership with the Aboriginal Peoples' Alliance of Northern Ontario and Mushkegowuk First Nation Employment and Training Services. It is the first all-women training program to be offered in this Aboriginal community through the government's Women In Skilled Trades Program (WIST).

"Our main objective is to provide an opportunity for the women of our communities to be fully integrated in the workplace by participating in meaningful, hands-on skills training," said Dorothy Wynne, president of the Aboriginal Peoples' Alliance of Northern Ontario. "This program will have a positive impact on our community development by ensuring a skilled workforce that includes women, traditionally an untapped human resource full of talent and potential."

The WIST program targets unemployed and low-income women and provides pre-apprenticeship training in a range of skilled trades. It includes in-school training and a paid on-the-job work placement with local employers. Government funding covers the women's tuition fees and other costs related to the program such as supplies.

Northern College will receive $114,580 from the Ontario Women's Directorate to deliver the pre-apprenticeship training in residential construction for up to 12 local Aboriginal women. Classes start on February 28.

The WIST program also supports a variety of training programs at five other locations: General Carpentry at Georgian College in Barrie; New Home Service Technician/General Carpentry at the Centre for Skills Development and Training in Burlington; General Carpentry at Conestoga College in Guelph; Welding at La Cité collégiale in Hawkesbury; and Industrial Electrician at Algonquin College in Ottawa.

For further information about the program at Northern College call Debby Donovan at 705-235-3211, ext. 2106, or visit www.northernc.on.ca.

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